

Hants & Wilts 1857

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REPORT

OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE

CONFERENCE

OF THE

HANTS AND WILTS

Adult Education Society,

HELD AT

BASINGSTOKE,

OCTOBER 7th, 1857:

CONTAINING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY;

WITH APPENDICES.

ANDOVER:

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HANTS AND WILTS
ADULT EDUCATION SOCIETY.

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CONFERENCE, 1857.
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THE annual conference of this Society was held in the Town-hall, Basingstoke, on Monday, October 5, 1857, and was attended by a large number of its members, and of the representatives of the different Institutions in union with it from the two counties. The Very Rev. the Dean of Salisbury occupied the chair; and there were present—the Lord Bishop of Salisbury, the Earl of Carnarvon, Rev. Canon Woodroffe, Sir Edward Hulse, Bart., Mr. G. Slater, M.P., Mr. W. W. Beach, M.P., Hon. and Rev. S. Best, Mr. W. L. Slater, Mr. Chute, Rev. S. Chermside, Dr. Booth, (of the Society of Arts, London), Rev. J. Temple, (Inspector of Schools), the Mayor of Basingstoke, Rev. E. Golding, Rev. Thomas Bacon, Rev. F. M. Cunningham, Rev. F. V. Thornton, George Edmondson, Esq., Rev. C. B. Knight, Rev. G. D. Snow, Wyndham S. Portal, Esq., Rev. Canon Jacob, Charles Saitons, Esq., Rev. Dr. Wilkinson, Rev. J. G. Joyce, Rev. E. M. McAll, Rev. M. Harrison, Rev. J. T. Utterton, F. J. E. Jervoise, Esq., E. W. Faithful, Esq., and the representatives of the following Institutions in Union: Newbury, Basingstoke, Farnham, Brightstone, Southampton, Church Oakley, Alton, Warnford, Winchester, Brimpton, Odiham, Woodlands St.

Mary, Woodhay, Farringdon, Chawton, Broughton, Dummer, Brown Candover, Abbott's Ann, Chilton, Alresford, Salisbury, East Tisted, Wilton, and Kingsworthy.

The Dean of Salisbury, on taking the chair, thus opened the business of the meeting:—I cannot occupy this seat without expressing my deep sense of the honour you have done me by asking me to take the chair on this occasion. In opening the business of the day, I feel that it will be my first duty to congratulate the founders of this Association upon the success which it has already attained—a success which we all know is mainly due to the sound principles on which it is based, and to the ability, zeal, and energy with which its operations have been conducted. Its object, I believe you all know, is to promote the improvement in the Adolescent and Adult Classes in the two counties of Hants and Wilts. This Association was, I believe, the very first in England to attempt to introduce anything like Literary Institutions among the rural part of the population. But the establishment of this, I may call, very valuable Society, is not the only service which Hampshire has rendered to education. It was in a small, obscure village of this county that we have the earliest specimen, and it may be well called the first model of a thoroughly efficient parochial School. By elevating what till then was a very low standard, and by making the system useful and practical, parents were taught to set a value on the education of their children. The prejudices of the farmers—a class very often strongly opposed to the instruction of the labourer—were gradually overcome, and they saw that it was to their interest that their children should be well educated as well as those of the labouring classes. The School, after a time, became self-supporting, and was the means of effecting a great moral, social, and spiritual revolution in the midst of a once disorderly parish. This meeting need not be told that I refer to the influence the Dean of Hereford exercised, and I re-

joice to say continues to exercise, on the progress of the education of the people. I may be allowed to mention another circumstance which redounds to the honour of Hampshire as an educational county. It appears from the financial statement published in the recent volume of the minutes, that this county has derived from Parliamentary grants no less a sum than £49,000—a sum larger in proportion to the population than any other county in England. These, then, are very great services which this county has rendered to the cause of education. But in offering what I feel to be a just tribute to this educational county I may be allowed to claim for the county of Wilts the honour of having been a worthy associate in the same sacred cause, in proof of which I might allude to many excellent Schools which have been established in Wiltshire, and more especially to the admirable Training School in Salisbury for Schoolmistresses, which is among the most flourishing and best-conducted establishments in the kingdom. To promote the educational object for which we have met we have but to supply the deficiency of early teaching, and, if possible, to enlarge the scanty stores of knowledge that may have been acquired at school. This, of course will be very much facilitated by the improvement and extension of Elementary Education, because I need hardly say that a Day School ought to be a preparation for the Night School, and for Classes in Literary and Mechanics' Institutes. To make the Day School, therefore, what it ought to be, and what I believe it is capable of being made, is directly conducive to the successful working of an Association like this. Now, there is among the promoters of education an unanimity of sentiment on one point—that we ought not to waste valuable time in fruitless discussion, but rather to grapple with the substantial difficulties that interfere with education, whatever party or denomination we may belong to. We must endeavour to improve Elementary Education. The object we ought to have in view should be to adapt

Schools to the circumstances and condition of the people. We ought to introduce such a practical and useful system of instruction as should bear directly on the trading and agricultural pursuits of the locality; such as should combine industrial work yielding wages, with school teaching. It will not do to shut up within the walls of the schoolroom all the day long a boy who has to get his bread by the sweat of his brow. He ought to be accustomed to give a portion of his time to manual employment; he ought to be early inured to hard out-of-door work, and to the vicissitudes of weather. It therefore should be our object to induce the employers of labour and parents to concur in some plan by which school teaching shall be combined with industrial employment out of doors. How to effect this is, of course, a subject of very great difficulty. At the recent meeting of the Educational Conference of London the chief subject for discussion was how to remove that great difficulty in the way of Elementary Education—the short and irregular attendance of children at School. In the first place it was necessary to ascertain clearly the cause of this short and desultory attendance. It was generally admitted that this was not to be ascribed to the indifference and im-morality of parents, but to their necessities and to the demand for juvenile labour. Now, in the present condition of the labouring classes, with low wages and high prices, we can hardly wonder that the labouring man should remove his child from School as soon as he is able to earn his 2s. or 3s. per week. Mr. Cook, in his very intelligent book on labour, says a boy may earn from 3s. to 7s. a-week in London and the manufacturing districts, but in agricultural parts from 2s. to 3s. a-week. Now, asking a parent to keep his children at School beyond the age now usual, when by their work he would make an addition of about one-fourth to his own earnings, is like asking him to pay so much for his children's education. Now, let us be just to a poor, hard-working man, and ask whether there are any persons in the middle or

higher classes of society who would like to pay so large a portion of their income for education? We must therefore adapt our system of instruction to the circumstances of the poor. We are too apt, I fear, to use an unreal and lofty language in talking to the poor about the blessings of education. Beyond all doubt we cannot insist too strongly upon education as exerting a beneficial influence, or that it is of immense importance to train up the young early in habits of morality and religion. But the working man requires something more than this. He requires that the instruction of his child should be such as would bear on his future calling—that it should, in fact, be productive of solid and tangible advantage. To refer to the upper classes for a moment, we shall find that the children are educated with special reference to their future professions or positions in life; why, therefore, should not the poor man, in like manner, desire his child to be fitted to pursue his humble calling? The union of school teaching with industrial employment has been carried out most successfully, as we all know, in parts of London and the manufacturing districts, especially in cotton factories, by what is called the half-time system, where children from eight to thirteen years of age are required to be at school, not half of the whole of the day, but half of the time required for work, that is, they are required to be at work six hours and they are required to be at school at least three hours per day for five days a week. In theory the system appears to be perfect, but the law is defective. The law prescribes attendance at School, but it has taken no pains to secure an efficient system of education. Any failure, therefore, in the half-time system, is attributable to the law, and not to the system. Where the employers of labour have been, and are still earnest in urging forward the education of children, the system has been successful. The question is, can this system be applied generally? To determine this point we have a simple test. It is essential to the successful working of a half-time system that it should be subjected to constant and vigilant supervision. Where such

supervision is practicable, as where a large number of children are congregated together, suited to regular employment, the half-time system may be introduced. It cannot be introduced where there is not. I state this on the high authority of one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Factories, Mr. Horner, whose extensive experience, sound judgment, and zeal in education, entitle his opinion on that subject to the greatest weight. Though the system is not capable, perhaps, of being carried out as generally as many might desire, we have abundant experience to show that it may be successfully employed; the principle being a combination of select teaching to a greater or less extent with industrial employment yielding wages. There are many instances of its successful operation in large towns, but I may be permitted to mention two cases only. The first is that of Price's Patent Candle Company, and the other that of Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, printers to the Queen. With regard to the latter establishment there is a remarkable corroboration of what I have said of the immense advantage of having education combined with regular work. In that establishment there are four classes of lads employed—all of whom, to the readers from 13 to 15 years of age, are required to supply the places of apprentices—the highest order of lads employed. The readers are employed from 9 o'clock in the day, but they are obliged to attend School from 8 to 9 o'clock in the morning five days in the week. The present Bishop of London, who at the beginning of the year examined these lads, expressed not only his satisfaction but his astonishment at their proficiency under such circumstances. It becomes an exceedingly interesting question how far any modification of the factory system, or the half-time system as it is called, can be applied to the agricultural districts. The system of alternate days for work and school has been strongly recommended, and we have the result of an experiment tried by Mr. Paget, the member for Nottingham, who has carried out this plan with admirable success; but this may have been under exceedingly favour-

able circumstances, and we must not from this rashly deduce any positive conclusions. We hear it constantly alleged that the movement of the half-time system will be opposed by farmers. No doubt it will, until they see the practical benefit of it. Once satisfy the farmer of the superiority of educated over uneducated labourers, and we shall have all opposition cease, as the opposition did cease in the remarkable instance of the parish of King's Somborne. We all know the opposition the former excellent vicar (the Dean of Hereford) received from the farmers, but when they saw the success of it their prejudices died away, and they became his heartiest supporters. I ought to mention a circumstance highly honourable to the farmers of that parish, and which deserves to be generally known. About two years since, a deficiency having occurred in the school fund, it was met by a small rate, levied voluntarily by the farmers themselves. Greater school accommodation being afterwards required, they again came forward and assessed themselves in a six-penny rate, to add to and enlarge the school buildings. That was the fruit of the seed, long ago sown, and I think we must all sympathise with the delight the Dean of Hereford must have realized in witnessing such successful results of his labours. Before sitting down I must advert briefly to the brightening prospects we now happily have of national education—of national education in its widest sense, comprehending the education not only of the labouring classes, the vagrants, and the paupers, but of the higher classes, the mercantile, and others. How much need there is of some improvement in the rudimental instruction of the middle classes has been plainly evinced by the significant fact some time ago made known to the public namely, that out of 680 persons nominated to public offices in the Civil Service no less than 425 were rejected for bad spelling, and 147 from ignorance of the simple rules of arithmetic. This system of examination into the qualification of persons for public offices, although carried out but imperfectly at pre-

sent, has already produced very important results. Parents in the middle and upper classes are now more anxious to give a superior education to their children; teachers in all ranks are stimulated to greater exertion; the youths are incited to greater steadiness and industry, now that they know that upon their own exertions must depend their own advancement in life. Only apply this principle in its full extent, only let great public companies and employers of labour insist on a certain amount of education as a condition of employment, and we shall have accomplished as much as we can expect to do in the matter of education in a free country like this. By such gentle, such judicious pressure, we shall apply the only mode of compulsion which England is ever likely to submit to in promoting the education of the people. With regard, however to the middle class education, it has received recently an immense impulse by the proposal of the Universities to hold periodical examinations of persons, and to grant certificates and honorary titles almost equivalent to a degree connecting them with the Universities to those who have attained a certain amount of proficiency. The principle of testing by examination, and thereby improving the middle-class education, was first applied by the Society of Arts in the case of pupils educated at Mechanics' Institutes, and subsequently adopted, through the strenuous exertions of Mr. Acland, by the Agricultural Society of the West of England, and it is now going to be carried out, we shall all be most happy to hear, by Oxford and Cambridge. It is impossible to overrate such a movement on the part of our excellent Universities. By thus nobly and boldly taking the lead in meeting the new requirements of the times, they will add immeasurably to their influence and usefulness, and will gradually become again what they originally were—thorough national places of education. I will not trespass further on your indulgence, but call on the Honorary Secretary of the Institution, to read the Report.

R E P O R T.

THE year that has elapsed since the last Meeting of the Society in this place has been fruitful in efforts to draw the attention of the country to the subject of Education, and in expedients for improving it. To those which have been more immediately directed to the general subject of Education, and to those which have had in view the improvement or efficiency of Elementary Education, it will not here be necessary to refer; but on general grounds as Educationists, it would be ungrateful to pass over without some notice the important and influential conference on questions of Education held this year in London, under the presidency of H. R. H. Prince Albert, or the measures introduced into Parliament by Sir J. Pakington and others, to place the Education of the Country on an acknowledged and settled basis. It will not be necessary, nor is it desirable perhaps, for us to express any opinion on these subjects, but a debt of gratitude it will be felt is due from us to those who have thus laboured with us in the same good cause, and who have promoted the discussion of questions interesting both in general and in detail to every friend of Education. To the promoters of the London Conference, and to all those who took part in its proceedings, we are indebted for the very valuable discussions it lead to, and the light that was thereby thrown on the views and feelings of the different Classes of Educationists throughout the Country.

Passing on to the more limited, yet ample subject embraced within the sphere of our own operations, your Committee would congratulate you on the increasing interest (promised by your last Meeting,) which has attended the efforts of the Society. Far as it yet is from filling that position which it ought to hold from the importance of the objects it embraces; it is satisfactory to be able to report that at least in two, and those important branches of its operations, namely its Examinations and its aid to Evening Schools an increasing interest has been shown; in the one case in the number of those presenting themselves for Examination, and in the other by the number of claims for the Society's assistance. Last year we had to report that 3 persons only had presented themselves for Examination. This year 13 have been Examined:—2 in Class 1a. of Circular C.; 5 in Class 1d.; and 5 in Class 1, but in subjects chosen by themselves, which your Committee took upon itself to allow as coming within the object and carrying out the spirit of the Examination. There was also one candidate in Class 2b.

To 9 of those so Examined the Certificate of the Society and Prizes differing in value have been awarded. From 4, acting on the judgment of the Examiners, these have been withheld. Of this list 6 are males and 3 females. Your Committee deem it desirable to repeat to you that in all but 3 cases they are Pupil Teachers, but if a new and wider direction be given to their studies through the agency of the Examinations, and these do not embrace the usual studies of Pupil Teachers, it does not seem reasonable to your Committee that they should be excluded; while it is both easy and reasonable to require of them a higher standard of merit in their answers, thus bringing them to an equality with those less favoured by the advantages of good teaching. In two cases, those of female teachers, 3 lectures delivered in their Institution were chosen as the subjects of Examination, and the comprehensive nature of the subjects, *i.e.* "The

Planets," "The Food of Man," and "England, Past and Present," show that a wide field of enquiry and Examination may be opened in this manner, and a practical direction given to the system of instruction by Lectures. To the case of 3 of those Examined a peculiar interest attaches. They are Agricultural Labourers of a Village Evening School, and it was in their case and in their favour that your Committee waived the Rule requiring Examination in subjects chosen by the Committee, and allowed them to choose their own. In another case the Rule was waived to allow one who had last year been Examined, and been successful, again to come forward in 3 new subjects, in which he has been again successful.

The following list will show to whom the Certificates and Prizes have been this year awarded :—

Elizabeth Tame	<i>Beechwood School.</i>
Sarah Dunnings.....	<i>do. do.</i>
Emma Isaac	<i>Petersfield Evening School.</i>
William Blake	<i>Alton Mechanics' Institute.</i>
James Vidler	<i>East Twisted Evening School.</i>
Charles Puzey	<i>do. do.</i>
Charles Burfitt	<i>do. do.</i>
Stephen Coles	<i>Ringwood Literary Institute.</i>
Edward Clinker.....	<i>Alton Mechanics' Institute.</i>

The case referred to of a Candidate a second time successful is that of W. Blake, of Alton.

While on the subject of Examinations, it may be well to draw attention to the two very important steps that have been taken in this direction during the year, one by the Society of Arts which has held an Examination at Huddersfield as well as in London, and the other by the University of Oxford, which has offered to extend its Examinations to those who are non-resident in the University, and not of its body, and thereby offer to develope and bring forward all the talent of the country, and to certify it by its Diploma. Following this up, the Society of Arts in June, 1858, pro-

poses holding an Examination for the southern district within the range of this Society's operation, and it is hoped also that in the following September an Examination will be holden by the Delegates of the University at Oxford, or if the number of members applying for Examination justify such a step in such central place within our district as may be fixed upon as most convenient, and ready of access.

Your Committee, looking to the development of the scheme by which they hope to raise the intellectual, moral, and social state of the classes whose interests the Society embraces, has thankfully availed itself of these offers, and it is hoped that by the scheme now proposed in Circular C all the requirements of the peculiar conditions of the various classes will be embraced, and the general cause of social improvement promoted. Classes 1 and 2 will of necessity become preparatory to Classes 3 and 4; and while the Mechanic and Artificer may feel justly satisfied with the honourable distinction of bearing the Diploma of the Society of Arts, there is a large, intelligent, and important portion of Society, forming the middle classes, withheld by expense from the advantages of a University Education, who may find this difficulty removed in the present liberal offers of the University, and learn to value the affix of A. A., Oxford, or Cambridge, to their names as a high and distinguished honour, and as a Certificate of the qualifications of the bearer, offered to the community in its quest for talent and industry. On the one hand it will admit the humblest, if only diligent and industrious, to a community of feeling and fellowship with all that is great and learned, and venerable; and on the other it will open the portals of the University, without respect to creed or position, to all that rising talent, which is ever welling up in this favoured country, and which, bursting the bonds of class, and the difficulties of position, finds its way both to the highest dignities, and to the esteem and veneration of the country.

Your Committee would next direct your attention to the claims made on the Society for gratuities for Evening Schools. For these there have been an increased number of applications; and in the following cases they have been allowed :—

EVENING SCHOOLS.	NUMBER ON BOOKS.	REQUIRED ATTENDANCE.	HOURS THE SCHOOL WAS OPEN.	GRATUITY. £. S. D.
Warnford	48.....	..... 40.....	.... 260.....	2 0 0
Petersfield	59.....	{ (17 above 80) { (21 above 60)	.... 190.....	2 0 0
Chawton	21.....	{ (5 above 80) { (11 above 60)	.... 110.....	1 15 6
Wallop.....	55.....	..... 45.....	.... 95.....	2 0 0
Tisted, East.....	17.....	..... 11.....	.... 130.....	2 0 0
Farringdon	18.....	..... 8.....	.... 136.....	2 0 0
Wootton Hill	45.....	..... 10.....	.... 80.....	1 13 6
Abbott's Ann	13.....	..... 9.....	.... 208.....	2 0 0
Brown Candover.....	35.....	(17 above 80)	.... 260.....	2 0 0

Your Committee would express a regret that the assistance the gratuity is capable of affording is not more fully and generally understood. The offer of Gratuities for this year will be found in Circular A. The object is to supplement local exertions. The payments of a teacher may be inadequate, owing to the smallness of the population, or want of interest in the School. To meet this, the plan of assisting by Gratuity is designed. If we suppose a case where ten scholars are found willing, as they are well able, for they are all receiving wages, to pay 6d. a week, the 5s. a week may not be sufficient to remunerate the Teacher; but if a payment of £2 by the Society, meeting a subscription of £2 raised locally, be added at the end of the year, as a gratuity, many will be induced to make an exertion to occupy profitably to themselves and others, the long and tedious hours of the winter evenings. The method that has been adopted of determining the amount of the Gratuity with a view to the assistance of the poorer localities, has been to allow 1s. for every Scholar who has attended 80 hours, and

in some instances dependent on the commencement or closing of the School, 6d. for every Scholar attending above 60 hours, and 3d. for every hour the School has been open. The Gratuity, therefore, may be earned either by the Scholar's time or by the School time, up to the sum limited by the Rule, £2. An important addition may be made to this by the Teacher, as will be seen by Rule 6 of Circular A. As no claim has been yet made for this, it will be for the Society to determine its amount, which the Committee propose to fix at 10s.

A subject which has occupied much time and attention is the practicability of carrying out successfully in our towns and villages, Evening Classes and Schools under Itinerating Teachers. It will be evident that very different Teachers would be required to meet the varying circumstances of the localities, and that in one circle or district, an ordinary master, giving two nights a week to each of the places, might at least partially meet their requirements; in others a higher class of Teachers would be required, and a separate Teacher for each subject desirable. The difficulties of the case have prevented the Committee from realizing a plan which, at Salisbury, and on other occasions, has been discussed; but they are quite ready to carry out any well devised scheme, and to recommend the aid of the Society being afforded to any effort that shall be made in this direction. In only one instance, that the Committee are aware of, *i.e.* in the Drawing Classes of N.W. Hants, has an Itinerating Master been tried for Evening Schools. It has succeeded at Andover embraced within the operations of the scheme in a Mechanics' Class, and very fairly in the teaching of Schools; but the Committee regret to report, that while other and more elementary Classes have, by the energy of the Committee of the Mechanics' Institute of this town, been very fairly successful, the same success has not here attended the Evening Drawing Class, although taught under

the most favourable circumstances, at the hours most convenient to the working classes, and by a Master holding the Certificate, and sent out with the sanction of the Department of Arts and Sciences.

In forming circles of Evening Schools for the teaching of one superior Master in our villages, or for the formation of Classes for special teaching in our towns, and the arrangements necessary to economise time and labour and to secure a sufficient remuneration to the Itinerating Master, the Local Secretaries could render most powerful and valuable aid to the Committee. In inspecting Schools and also in communicating information of the offers of the Society to the Schools in their districts much valuable aid could be rendered by them. It is hoped that these points will be kept in view in the discussion which may be expected to day to take place, on the services these officers are capable of rendering. It does not appear reasonable that they be put to expense in travelling from place to place. Dealing with gentlemen of high character and station, the Committee are confident that no charge would be made on the Society's funds that might not be fairly met by the ordinary establishment of gentlemen in the position of your Local Secretaries; but that at the same time such personal travelling expenses as are unavoidable should be borne by the Society. If the Local Secretaries would point out in what cases arrangements may be made for uniting Schools under an Itinerating Master, or for procuring Masters for Classes, the Committee would endeavour, either by advertisement or otherwise, to procure the necessary Teachers, and to secure their efficiency, either by Examination, or by the Certificate of the Local Secretaries, or in such manner as, under the circumstances, may be satisfactory, before sanctioning their appointment. It is believed that there are many intelligent operatives who would be ready to give their

evenings to this useful work, and who only want to be assisted and have it pointed out to them how and where so to employ themselves, with a fair prospect of remuneration.

Your Committee have to repeat that in two instances at least, Basingstoke and West Cowes, and probably in others, (but the returns are in this particular very deficient) Classes for Elementary Instruction in connection with the Institutes have been successfully carried out; and to mark their sense of the spirited manner in which, through the agency only of voluntary teaching by members of the Institute, these Classes have been kept together, the Committee has awarded a present of books, as an acknowledgment of their services to two of the Teachers and to six of the Scholars of the Evening Classes of the Basingstoke Mechanics' Institute. Your Committee would desire to record the names of these disinterested Teachers, Mr. Machonochie and Mr. Shergold, in the hope of inspiring others with a similar spirit of self-devotion to a great object. In very many of the returns received it is satisfactory to observe the efforts that have been made to establish and maintain Evening Schools and Classes. Among them your Committee would mention West Cowes, to which attention has been already drawn—Brown Candover, (Longbridge Deverell) Abbott's Ann, Wilton, Brightstone, Longstock, East Tisted, Petersfield, Wootton-hill, Wallop, Gillingham, and Farringdon, besides others, as Basingstoke, Chawton, and Warnford, of which no returns but those of the schools have been received. The important question proposed to the Secretaries of the Institutions in Union No. 7, "What 12 books or sets of books have been most in circulation?" your Committee regret to say has been very insufficiently answered; and, as a consequence, they have no opportunity of laying before you a synopsis of the reading of the Members; nor can they point out to purchasing Institutes the books found to be most in request and most popular.

The Secretary for Lectures, Diagrams, and Apparatus, reports to the Committee a very decided improvement in his department, both as to the number of Lectures delivered, the subjects of the Lectures selected, the attendance, and the result, manifested in an apparent increase of interest in reading and in Classes on subjects connected with the Lectures. The Lecture List for the ensuing year is now ready for delivery to the Secretaries of Institutes. It will be found, it is hoped, as efficient for its purpose as those that have preceded it, and your Committee, in laying this list before you, would respectfully remind you of the deep debt of gratitude that is due to those, who at so much personal inconvenience and sacrifice of time, devote themselves to the instruction and the enjoyment of their neighbours. The value of Lectures, as an educational agent, it is impossible to question; although, in any comparative estimate with other means of more direct instruction there may possibly be many shades and differences of opinion amongst us. At the least, it is undeniable, that, without the aid of Lectures to break up the fallow ground, to stimulate industry, and to act as harbingers of better things, this Society would never have been in its present position of activity and promise; and that there yet remains a very wide tract of unbroken ground, within the limits of the Society's labours, which will never be effectually cultivated without the aid of Lectures. Of the Diagrams and Apparatus of the Society the Secretary makes an equally satisfactory report. They have been largely used and have greatly facilitated the preparation and delivery of Lectures. Additions have, from time to time, been made to them; and the Committee would be glad to make it known to the Lecturers that they will be, at all times, ready to incur any reasonable expense for the purchase or preparation of really useful Diagrams and Apparatus. It is an express object of the Society to facilitate Lectures and to save expense to those who are good enough

to prepare them; and therefore the Committee feel that they should ill execute the office entrusted to them, if they did not readily meet every requirement of this sort. They wish, at the same time, to express their opinion that the limited funds at their disposal are better employed in purchasing or preparing Diagrams adapted to a specific purpose, than in the indiscriminate purchase of all which are published, however well they may be executed, if they only remain in our dépôt for exhibition.

Your Committee cannot conclude their Report without referring with satisfaction to the proceedings of other kindred Institutions;—to those of the Great Yorkshire Union, of the Berks and Bucks Society, which has, with great spirit, carried out a scheme of local examination, during the past year; and to those of Brooke Deanery, in Norfolk, which, in a smaller district, has rendered valuable assistance to the cause. We hail all these efforts with earnest gratification, and hope that, under the agency of influences now about to be brought to bear on them by the Universities and by the Society of Arts, great good may be effected; and that, while a general impetus is given to Education, its standard value may be established. In the returns of the Secretaries of Institutes and of Local Secretaries many very valuable suggestions have been made. These would be out of place in this Report; but it is hoped that they will not be lost sight of in the discussions which are to follow: the subjects proposed for discussion being founded upon these suggestions.

One point only remains for our consideration prospectively, namely, the subjects to be chosen for the Examinations of the forthcoming year. These, with the object, already explained, of their being subsidiary and preparatory to the higher class of Examinations of the Society of Arts and University Delegates, it is proposed to hold in May: and it may be well worthy of consideration whether a pass

in one or other of these Examinations,—that is to say, in one of the five of Class 1, or in one of the six first of Class 2 Circular C—should not be made a necessary step to admission to the higher Examinations of the Society of Arts or Delegates of the University.

The subjects chosen for Examination in Class 1, D, will be—

THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND FROM 1377 TO 1509,
THE HYDRAULIC RAM AND PRESS,
THE MOUNTAIN SYSTEM AND RIVER DRAINAGE OF EUROPE.

Great latitude of interpretation, as your Committee have reported, has been given to the Examinations in Class 1. They propose still to act upon this principle, and, under certain restrictions, to allow Members to choose any subject of Examination for themselves; and further to permit those who have succeeded this year in earning Prizes and Certificates, to take up more advanced branches of the same subjects.

In conclusion, your Committee desire that the warmest thanks of the Society should be given to those who, in the past year, have, at the cost of much self-sacrifice, acted as Examiners, and by whose judgment the Certificates and Prizes have been awarded. These gentlemen are—The Rev. Matthew Harrison of Church Oakley; the Rev. F. G. Thornton of Chilton; the Very Rev. the Dean of Hereford; E. A. K. Welch, Esq., M.D., of Downton; the Rev. R. Compton of Lyndhurst; the Hon. and Rev. S. Best of Abbott's Ann; and the Rev. Mark Cooper of Bramshaw; while a similar vote of thanks is due to those gentlemen, the Presidents and Members of Institutes, through whose efficient agency and superintendence the Examinations were locally carried out.

We hold this year, for the second time, our Anniversary in Basingstoke,—1st, because the Society has always been warmly invited and received here; secondly, because of the

central position of the town and the ready access to it; and thirdly, because a noble lord, our Vice-President, who is ever ready, with equal talent and energy, to throw himself into any good cause, has kindly offered to complete, in a Lecture, this evening, the interesting subject he so brilliantly handled last year. Our next place of meeting remains to be determined at the meeting of the Committee in April; but it would greatly conduce to the convenience of the Committee and to the success of the Anniversary, if any such place as may desire it, and can offer the necessary accommodation, and a co-operation as zealous as that of the Basingstoke Committee, would put itself in early communication with the Secretaries.

MESSRS. FAITHFULL AND R. HETLEY, TREASURERS, IN ACCOUNT
WITH THE HANTS AND WILTS ADULT EDUCATION SOCIETY.

	£. S. D.
Balance brought forward from last year's account	122 13 3
Donations since received	7 5 0
Subscriptions	62 16 0
Ditto, unpaid	29 10 0
	<hr/>
	£222 4 3
By expenses of last meeting	6 6 4
Prizes to Candidates at last annual meeting	5 0 4
Travelling expenses of Candidates	1 9 0
Diagrams	0 18 4
Fittings, boxes, &c.	9 1 6
Blocks for Certificates and Certificates	2 10 0
Expenses of Catalogue, as a guide to Institutions	7 7 0
Advertising, printing, postage, and stationery	32 10 8
Grants to Schools and Institutions	19 9 0
Subscription (two years) to Society of Arts	4 4 0
Salary to Curator	20 0 0
Curator's account for carriage of diagrams, &c...	3 1 7
Petty expenses	0 4 6
Balance (including unpaid subscriptions)	110 2 0
	<hr/>
	£222 4 3

Sir Edward Hulse moved the adoption of the Report, and that it be printed and circulated. Mr. G. Sclater, M.P., seconded the resolution.

The Rev. Thomas Bacon (one of the Hon. Secretaries) rose and said, that, before the adoption of the Report was put to the meeting, he must express a hope that a vote of thanks would be placed on record to those gentlemen who had so hospitably received their Lecturers. He then alluded to the loss which the Society had sustained by the removal of the Dean of Westminster from that locality. He (Mr. Bacon) had, however received a letter from him, intimating that, although his name must not appear on the Lecture List, yet that he would gladly embrace any opportunity of coming among them again,—not, indeed, as one of their own body, but as a helper from without. The list of Lectures offered for gratuitous delivery before the Institutions in Union, during the forthcoming session, did not contain the names of the Hon. and Rev. S. Best, Mr. Wyndham Portal, and three or four other friends who had previously favoured them with lectures; but this arose, not from any diminution of interest in this branch of the Society's operations, but simply from the circumstance of their hands being overburdened with other labours. He would, therefore, appeal to other gentlemen to volunteer. There were 54 Lecturers now on the list; but this staff was still inadequate to the appeals made almost daily by the Institutions in Union. The improved attendance on the Lectures was most encouraging to the Lecturers; and there was also an improved taste as regarded the subject of the Lectures,—those of a musical and humourous character being now much less in request than they had been. The love of Lectures of an amusing and trifling character had been the cause of failure in many Institutions; but it was clear that more profitable subjects were now in growing request. He had received many letters offering advice as to the Subjects of Lectures; but he

wished it to be distinctly understood that with this matter the Secretary had nothing to do, the subjects being left to the discretion of the Lecturers themselves, while the call for Lecturers was at the option of the Institutions availing themselves of the Lecture List. For his own part, he regretted that they had not more Lectures on subjects connected with Social and Domestic Economy, and he earnestly invited gentlemen to take up that class of subjects. A real and substantial good had undoubtedly been effected, during the past year, through this branch of the Society's operations; and he believed that the present year will show still greater advances. He would now mention one or two examples showing what had been done through the agency of the Lectures. He had received two letters from persons at Poole, who had never turned their attention to scientific matters, until they attended the Lectures in that town given by one of the Society's Lecturers; but, since they had had their interest thus awakened, they had devoted their leisure to scientific pursuits, had gone out into the open air, had studied the page of nature, and had transmitted to him the highly creditable results of some of their researches. He then referred to a letter which had been sent to him from a lady in the Isle of Wight, who, having been excited to action by a Lecture upon "The Degrees of Intelligence from Instinct to Reason," had printed a very valuable Address to Schoolmasters, urging upon them the importance of giving instructions to children on this subject.* The Rev. gentleman then observed that he would suggest a much freer use of Diagrams in illustration of Lectures. They were in possession of a very valuable collection, which, though in growing request, was still not half enough used. He agreed with the valuable suggestion of a correspondent as to the use of diagrams of agricultural operations, showing the different breedings of stock, &c., it being most

* This interesting address, and some curious statistics respecting it, will be found in the Appendix to this Report.

desirable to get hold of the boys in rural districts—"Those thorns and briers that run o'er every village green."

The motion was then put from the chair and adopted.

The Rev. C. B. Knight then moved, and W. W. Beach, Esq., M.P., seconded the re-election of the Committee and Officers of the Society.

The motion was put from the chair and carried.

The names of those to whom Prizes and Certificates had been awarded were then read over by the Secretary, and they were called up to receive them.

The Chairman addressed to each recipient remarks suitable to the occasion, and particularly referred to the class and character of the examination for which the prizes, &c. were given. To Mr. W. Blake, of Alton, who had, both in the years 1856 and 1857, been successful in the Society's Examinations, the Dean addressed some very flattering and encouraging remarks in presenting him with the Society's Prize and Certificate.

The Very Rev. the Chairman then said that the next business of the meeting was the discussion of the subjects which had been placed on the paper containing the order of proceedings. The first of these was—"IN WHAT MANNER CAN THE SERVICES OF LOCAL SECRETARIES BE MADE MORE CONDUCIVE TO THE INTERESTS AND OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY?" and he would call upon the Rev. G. D. Snow to open the discussion.*

The Rev. G. D. Snow said, that one way in which Local Secretaries might make themselves useful to the Society was as Inspectors, in order gradually to open the way for that higher class of inspection, which was necessary in order fully to carry out the present system. There were many young

* It is the practice of the Society, in its Conferences, to discuss the questions, but not to come to any vote upon them; it being understood that the committee will carry out whatever appears to be the general wish of the meeting.

men who were reluctant to come forward, from a feeling of diffidence. He thought that this plan would remove this. At the same time he thought special attention should be given to such Schools as invited inspection, and that there should be a power of giving them a larger gratuity. The Local Secretaries would best introduce this system; and it would put them in the position of advisers to the Society. If they should act as Inspectors, it would be necessary for them to see the questions and answers. He thought that, if the Local Secretaries would undertake these duties, they would be most useful to the Society, while their position would become more easy as Inspectors. It was desirable also that a time should be fixed for sending in claims for Gratuities.

The Secretary pointed out, that by the last issue of Circular A, (see Appendix) containing offers of Gratuities for the coming year, the 1st of March was fixed on as the day on or before which all claims must be made.

The Rev. Thomas Bacon suggested that Local Secretaries could render most important services to the Society by making it a part of their duty to arrange with the various Institutions requiring lectures, a CIRCUIT for the Lecturers whose services were demanded, thereby saving both time and expense. Many gentlemen were willing to give up a stated interval of their time, but could not hold themselves at the disposal of several Institutions, unless they would consent to act in concert.

The Hon. and Rev. S. Best said he thought it worthy of a good deal of consideration in what manner Local Secretaries could promote the object of the Society most usefully. It was impossible that the General Secretary could fix on different localities where exertions could be most profitably made. The Local Secretary, therefore, would be the person most competent to point out, for instance, where a Resident Master or an Itinerating Master, as proposed in the Report, could be established with advantage. The meetings of the

Society, which had hitherto been held only thrice a year, it was now proposed to hold quarterly, and in different parts of the district. This would bring the Society's operations more immediately home to the different localities, and call forth, it was hoped, the energies of the Local Secretaries.

The Dean of Salisbury then proceeded to read the next subject, calling upon the Rev. Canon Woodrooffe to open the discussion :—

2.—The sufficiency of the Schemes of Examination proposed in Circular C, to meet the requirements of the different Classes of Members included within the Society's operations.

The Rev. Canon Woodrooffe, speaking to the “sufficiency of the schemes of Examination to meet the requirements of the different classes of members,” referred to Circular C, containing the scheme of Examinations. This was so full and ample as, of itself, to answer the question proposed. He stated his opinion that care had been taken to make the Examinations as useful as possible. He felt sure that there was but one opinion as to the desirableness of having suitable Examinations, so as to include all classes. There might be very good Schools, and at each of those Schools there might be a good attendance of scholars, but it did not necessarily follow that the Schools were in such a state of efficiency as they might be. He apprehended that as the great value of the Government Examinations was to ensure the goodness of the teaching and to ascertain the proficiency of the scholars, so the Examinations of this Society were a great and valuable means, as applied to Candidates of all classes, for ascertaining and securing the same important results. He held it to be of the highest importance that the Society should make an effort to render these Examinations what they ought to be. He was thankful that the cause of Education had made such strides in Hampshire and Wilt-

shire, and that these counties conjointly stood at the head of the list, as recipients of government aid. Whilst he was thankful for this, he hoped it would stimulate them to increased exertion, so that they might stand A 1 for proficiency. He thought, if they could get their Schools up to something like a yet higher standard, they would have achieved a great boon for the working classes. He wanted to see the standard of education, as well as education itself, extended; and he thought the objects that this Society had in view would greatly facilitate it.

The Chairman said, this Meeting was favoured with the presence of Dr. Booth, the Chairman of the Council of the Society of Arts, whose opinion they would all be glad to hear on the subject of Examinations.

Dr. Booth was warmly applauded on rising. He said, instead of making a long address, he thought it would be more profitable to the Meeting if he considered himself rather in the light of a witness in the box, to answer any questions which any gentleman might feel disposed to put to him on the subject of the Examinations instituted by the Society of Arts. He might, in the first, place tell them there had been Examinations this year, in Whitsun week, in London and Huddersfield. The success of those Examinations was indeed very remarkable. The Examiner in English History (one of the Professors at King's College) stated that he never in his life had better answers made to him than he had by some of the young men who had attended Mechanics' Institutions. It might be interesting to know what the Society of Arts proposed to do this next year. Their Examinations had been so called for, that they intended to hold them in London, Manchester, Halifax, Birmingham, and in the south of England, either at Southampton, Salisbury, or any place considered most suitable. They had been invited by those great centres of manufactures to examine their Classes. It might be said that these Exam-

nations were good, but they were, after all, perhaps, no test of real acquirement. Let them come to the point. Lord Granville, that great friend of the education of the people, placed four nominations for competition at the disposal of the Council of the Society of Arts. There were six places in all to be competed for: there were 15 or 16 competitors. Out of the six places, the Candidates of the Society of Arts obtained four. Two of these were men in very humble rank of life, who attended the Classes at Crosby-hall, and the other two were from the Birmingham and Leicester Institutions. He appealed to them whether there was the slightest possibility of these young men having advanced themselves in that way, but for the Examination of the Society of Arts. It was exceedingly gratifying to him to be able to announce that Lord Palmerston, no later than Friday last, had placed two nominations to situations in the Treasury at the disposal of the Council of the Society of Arts. This might appear very little in itself; but anybody who knew the proceedings of Government, must know the great importance of the precedent being established. It showed that the Government was widely awake to the present educational movement. He must be allowed to say that, of all the means of promoting education which for many years had been set on foot in this country, he considered the bringing the will and the determination of young men to bear on their own advancement, was far the most potent and effectual agency that could be worked. They might build schools, and put in teachers, and supply books: but would that force young men to study? His belief was that the difficulties of Education were not owing to the want of appliances: they had schools, cheap books, and lectures, in every direction. The thing wanted is the determined will of the student. No man was ignorant because he could not get the means of learning. He was pleased to see, and he considered it a great compliment to the Society of Arts, that the great

Universities of this country, Oxford and Cambridge, were prepared to inaugurate the system of Examination, based pretty much upon that of the Society of Arts. Instead of there being any opposition on the part of the Society towards the Universities, they hailed their movement with the greatest satisfaction. There was room for ten Universities. He believed that if they wished really to promote Education, they were now in the right way of doing it.

The Rev. F. Cunningham was desirous of knowing the qualifications expected from Candidates.

Dr. Booth replied that every Candidate would first be examined with a view to shewing that he had acquired the common elements of an English education. In the north, some of the Candidates who had taught themselves mathematics, were found, on examination, to be deficient in spelling and writing; therefore they were sent back on that account, for it was a *sine quâ non* that they should read and write well, and know the four first common rules of arithmetic. In reply to another application made to him, Dr. Booth said he would undertake to send down a sufficient number of the Society's syllabus for distribution.

The Earl of Carnarvon inquired of Dr. Booth whether there is necessarily any affinity between the three subjects of Examination or whether the Candidates would be at liberty to take any three subjects, at their own option.

Dr. Booth replied that *any three subjects* could be taken up, but no more. Schoolmasters, undergraduates, and pupil-teachers, their qualifications being otherwise tested, were ineligible.

Mr. G. Slater, M.P., said the Certificates of the Society of Arts were in themselves prizes of great value. He did not think it desirable the idea should go abroad that students should employ their whole time in preparing themselves for the Examinations of the Society, in order to gain situations of pecuniary value. On the contrary, he presumed it was

the object of these Examinations to lead young men generally to improve themselves, and thereby raise their position in the social scale; and that the prizes, which had been so much and so justly spoken of, in the form of places in the public service, were only incidental to the better system which it was now attempted to inaugurate, in favour of the Classes to which they belonged.

The Chairman then called on the Rev. F. Temple, who had kindly come down to attend their meeting, and thereby aid the cause which he had himself initiated, to speak to that part of the Scheme of Examinations in Circular C which the University of Oxford had offered to carry out.

The Rev. F. Temple, one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, said he did not come to that Conference officially, His position as a Government Inspector of Schools gave him, however, the opportunity of offering one remark in confirmation of what had fallen from Dr. Booth. It had been mentioned that two Candidates, presented by the Society of Arts, had obtained Clerkships in the Council Office by open competition. He had the means of knowing how these young men thus admitted into the Council Office had turned out, in the work of that department. These young men were as thoroughly good in practical work as they had been in their Examinations beforehand—and this was a complete refutation of the idea that they gained mere book-worms, and not practical useful men, by competitive Examinations. He had generally found that those who do best at examination do best when set to work. He could say this for these young men with satisfaction, and he was assured that the feeling, which had been at first very strong in the Civil Service—that they would get nothing but bookworms from these examinations—was a mere dream. By mere chance they might meet with a young fellow who could write a great deal and do nothing else, or that the young man who turned out best at Examination could do nothing else. But

though it might sometimes happen, in an examination of a very large number of competitors, that the one who stood at the head of the list was not better than, or perhaps so good as, some other one, yet it was an invariable rule that the twenty who stood at the head of the list were better than any other twenty. He advanced these arguments, in order to show that the examinations of the Society of Arts were really carrying out the objects sought to be attained, and not proving to be a system of cramming up the memory without permanently telling advantageously upon the powers of the mind. He had made these remarks to support what had fallen from Dr. Booth, but the subject in which he felt more personally interested was that of the intended Examinations to be instituted by the University of Oxford, as set forth in the Statute of last June; and he hoped to see Cambridge framing a Statute in harmony with that of the other University. The object of the Oxford University, in instituting these Examinations, was to do for Schools what the Society of Arts was doing for Mechanics' Institutes. The Society of Arts laid hold of Mechanics' Institutes, and made the work done in their Classes real and sound, instead of its being merely something by way of amusement, from which a second really useful thought would never enter the heads of the Members. The Society regulated the Examinations so that the Members were required to study and know that which was really useful, and of such a character as would fit the minds of young men for the situations in life into which they had already entered; and, at the same time, afford the opportunity of fairly distinguishing the clever ones from the rest. The University looked more to the training which youths ought to receive, when actually at School. The plan of the Society differed accordingly from that of the University in regard to the scale of age. The Society of Arts fixed their minimum age at 15; the University, on the contrary, made 18 their maximum—the object

of the latter not being so much to test what might be attained by private study. It might be taken for granted that the University's Examinations would be held next year, and probably in September; and the support of Local Societies was necessary for facilitating the holding of Local Examinations. Nothing could be done in this way successfully, without great local exertion all over the country. Although the University would supply the Examiners, they could not do more; they could not do the necessary work of detail, nor stir up the Schools and Classes to exertion. That must be done by the Local Societies. Information would be duly supplied by the University; and he was ready, on the part of the University Delegates, to answer any question that might be put to him, as Dr. Booth had offered to do on the part of the Society of Arts. There were two things, however, which he particularly wished to press upon the attention of Societies such as these: the first was, the necessity of getting Candidates selected, and bringing them together into centres at certain convenient points, and keeping them there for the Examinations to take place: the second was this—whilst the University was not in a position to offer to Candidates anything in the shape of Prizes, or anything more than the Certificates, it would be the means of producing a good effect if Prizes were offered within the several localities to those who distinguished themselves. He thought that the distribution of Prizes, as practised by this Society, was likely to prove of the greatest value, as a stimulant to exertion, especially as being given where the competitors were known. They conferred a double benefit both on the givers and receivers; and, as he had before intimated, gave a stimulus which could not be created in any other way.

The Hon. and Rev. S. Best asked if there would be any insuperable difficulty, likely to mar the project of the University, if the age of Candidates for examinations was extended beyond 18—say to 21?

moment, that the farmers were against improvement, for in his parish they had rated themselves to support the School, and when further efforts were required he went to the higher class of farmers, and they gave him a subscription of £3 each.

The Rev. E. Golding enquired the age at which Mr. Thornton admitted pupils to his Evening School?

The Rev. F. V. Thornton said that the ages of his pupils ranged from 10 to 25.

Mr. G. W. Clarke, of Southampton, Secretary of the Polytechnic Institution, referred to the fact that gratuitous assistance given to societies and classes, though it might often be more valuable than that paid for, was frequently thought less of, and seemed to confirm the saying that "what is given away is not appreciated." In his Institution they had had a class in which gratuitous instruction was provided, and the attendance was very irregular. They made the members pay 5s. per quarter in advance, and there was a much better attendance. He believed they all valued more what they paid for. The adoption of Evening Schools, as a part of the educational system, his observations had led him to consider a very good plan.

Charles Sartoris, Esq., said he was anxious to make enquiries as to the possibility of farmers' boys getting away from their work earlier, as had been intimated by some of the foregoing speakers, for on this appeared to him to depend the practicability of rendering the Evening School efficient. It would be a very important movement if the farmer could be persuaded so to meet the wishes of the friends of education, and to co-operate with them, as to give up if it were only an hour a-day — say, break off work at 4 o'clock. This would be no great sacrifice on their part, but a great boon to the labourer.

Mr. Ward and Mr. Thornton spoke to the manner in which this might be accomplished.

The Earl of Carnarvon said, before the question was

closed he wished to offer a few observations, though he did so with some little reluctance after the practical and interesting remarks which had fallen from Mr. Thornton and Mr. Cunningham. The question raised in the present discussion was, as to the practicability of the half-time system. He remembered that at the Conference last year, at which he was unfortunately not present, the question was discussed with great interest, and with a good deal of keenness on both sides, and he now ventured to offer the observations he was about to make with very great reluctance, as he was afraid that the opinion of the Very Rev. Chairman would be thrown into the contrary balance. All of them who had to any extent considered the question, he was sure would only look at it in the light of what was feasible; and if it was found to be feasible, he was convinced they were, every one, prepared to assist in carrying it out. If the thing turned out to be practicable, he would venture to say that in its working it would be eminently conducive to the best interests of the boy and likewise of the employer himself. The question arose, whether the system could be applied to the rural districts? The argument he had hitherto generally heard had referred to the operation of the Factory Act. He did not believe that the Act would apply and work well in the agricultural districts, and for one or two reasons. In the first place, the half-time system started upon the supposition that there was a superfluity of labour where it was to be applied. Now, in Hampshire—to speak of their county—there was really no superfluous labour whatever; and he hailed this fact with the more satisfaction, because it might be taken as an index of the prosperity of the county. In the next place, it must be remembered, that in the towns—especially the greater ones—the majority of the labouring population lived hard by the spot where they were engaged, generally clustering round their employers' factory, within a distance of not more than a few hundred yards, and thus they were easily

got together; but in the country villages it was exactly the reverse. A great many of the agricultural labourers lived at great distances from their work. It was either thus, or, as is sometimes the custom, they lived at the farms, and continually resided with the farmer. This would involve, of course, not only a double supply of lads, but a double supply of accommodation for them. Again, they must remember, that in manufacturing towns the employers were generally men of large means; and though in the country there were men of capital and substance, still, the majority of those upon whom they would have to try this system, were men of comparatively small means, and who could hardly be called upon to make the experiment. It had been said that farmers would readily acquiesce in the scheme of education, because they would be fully alive to the advantage of having a choice between skilled and unskilled labour. He thought the farmer would very gladly embrace the opportunity of having such a choice; and he recounted, with satisfaction, that last year there was a declaration made by agriculturists, and others of influence, in which they promised to give preference to those who held Certificates from this Society. On the other hand, boys who came under the influence of that Society, from ten to fourteen years, were not skilled labourers; therefore the argument seemed to fail in that case. The Factory Act applied to children under 13 years of age; the half-time system would apply to boys from 12 to 15. The Factory Act had a double object in view. It proposed, primarily and mainly, to prevent any over-working of children themselves at a very tender age; and, secondarily, to enforce a certain amount of attendance at School. But the whole object of those who proposed the half-time system was, not to prevent over-working of children, but to compel them to attend a certain number of hours in School. Now, it had never been said that there had been any physical hardship in agricultural employment.

They were bound to remember what the position of the agricultural labourer was. He started from no very high intellectual level; and, just at the time when he thought he had done with the main expense of his child, they proposed that he should pay for additional schooling, and also forego the labour of his child; and this at the time when he was looking to be repaid. In fact, the plan seemed to bring into collision two very important principles — first, the love of knowledge; and, secondly, the value of marketable labour. And,—much as one would wish it to be the reverse,—when they put these two principles in opposition, their strength was so disproportionate, that, like the old fable, the earthen pot, when dashed against the iron pot, would be the first that went to the wall. At the same time, he did not deny that there was a difficulty in the case; that there was a considerable grievance, if he might so call it, on the part of labourers' children, which the times required to be remedied. It had been shown that between 5,000 and 6,000 children, who were mere infants, were employed in agricultural operations, and some hundreds of thousands below fifteen. Also, it had been shown that not above one-half of those who could attend School did so; and of that a half, or a majority of that half, left School before eleven; and almost all had left it before twelve years of age. He believed the real remedy—as far as remedy could be found for this evil—lay in a succession of small successes, all building up a great result: such as night schools, book-hawking, personal attention of the clergy, prevailing upon the labourer to give up what was over the average of earnings, and not to spend his spare pence at the public house, &c. The system of book-hawking, established by some Societies in this county, had been productive of good. In conclusion, he would wish to impress upon the Masters and Mistresses of the Evening Schools especially, how vast was the influence they might exercise upon their pupils; their duty was not confined simply to overlooking

their conduct while within the four walls of the schoolroom, but it was further, to attract and draw the children to them after they had left School; and thus to keep up a continual effect by way of worthy example. If such plans as these were well carried out, he was convinced that they would find themselves considerably forwarded in their views, and carried on a great way towards solving the difficulty, which, he must admit, was a very great and very pressing one.

The Rev. R. S. C. Chermside said, that as Mr. Thornton had spoken of being a Night Teacher of 16 years' standing, he had himself had a Night School in his parish for 11 years. He had tried these Schools every way—by voluntary Teachers—by hiring Masters, and by employing Pupil Teachers. He lived in a sort of overgrown village; and, as far as his experience went, he thought that Mr. Thornton's plan of two Masters was indispensable. He made it a condition that his Night School Master should not consider that he was an independent master, but an assistant-master in the Day School. Thus the Night School was not, as it were, cut off from the Day School. He did not agree with any very stringent rules as to the dismissal of the boys from School, as a great many boys could resist the onslaughts of sleep more than others could, and some of them felt a much stronger desire for knowledge than others; and he therefore endeavoured to give them as many hours of instruction as possible in the evening. His plan was not to force them to remain throughout the evening; and he was quite satisfied, if he could induce some of them to stay only half the evening. With regard to half-time, although it was not all that could be desired, it had some advantages, and these he had witnessed whilst he was curate to Dr. Hook, at Leeds. He thought the system might be introduced gradually into the agricultural districts, but not all of a sudden. He then related a practical proof of the partial adoption of this system in his own parish (Wilton). He

said that he made an arrangement with a large farmer in the neighbourhood to give instruction in the following way: Supposing, for instance, there were four boys: three of them would be employed on one day, while the other was at School; and so on, in rotation. Thus, if they were called A, B, C, and D, the first three would be at work while D was at School. The next B, C, D, would be at work while A was at School, and so on. This was an attempt at something like the half-time system. He was of opinion that many such schemes might be introduced into other parishes with advantage.

The Rev. N. J. Ridley, of Woodhay, Newbury, said, they had a half-time system wherever a Night School existed, but a regular practical half-time system would never be carried out. They might consider, when they were discussing Night Schools they were discussing a half-time system, as far as it was practicable in an agricultural district. He thought Mr. Thornton's parish, from what he had said, must be one peculiarly favourable; for in his parish they had no such thing as a boy leaving his work at four o'clock in the afternoon. With regard to inspection, he was sure that all would be glad to receive any officer sent by the Society; but the grant was too small to do much good—it could not, under the rules, exceed £2, and that sum must be doubled from local sources.

The Rev. T. Bacon said, nothing but the limited means intrusted to the Society prevented them from giving more amply. If the Secretaries of the Society only found themselves in a position with more pecuniary means at their disposal, they, in their turn, would be only too happy to increase their grants four-fold or even ten-fold.

The Bishop of Salisbury said he had listened with great interest to the statements of the speakers. He did not come there with the intention of taking any active part in the proceedings, but he would make an observation respecting

one feature in the night schools, and feeling their exceeding value, he should not be fulfilling his duty if he did not refer to the point he had alluded to. The public reporters would send forth an account of what passed in that room, and he could not help fearing that his clergy would think him backward if he did not make some remark on such an occasion upon a subject in which they were so deeply interested. He was intimately acquainted with the parish of Mr. Chermside, and though he had made some progress towards carrying out a good school system, still he hoped that would not be taken as a criterion of what was being done in many parishes in his diocese. The great difficulty they had to contend with was the want of real support so as to enable the clergy to pay for the services of well trained teachers. It would be a deeply touching account if he were to ask his clergy what they contributed to the maintenance of their parish schools. He well knew that the sacrifices they made in order that their poorer brethren should be educated were very considerable, and they found it impossible in many cases to pay well trained teachers. If the statement went forth that they were unable to pay for the instruction of the schools, he hoped it would have the effect of gaining them assistance, and impressing upon the clergy the responsibility left with them. He knew that the personal attendance of the clergyman at the night school during the winter months did a vast amount of good, and tended also to awaken an interest among the residents of a parish in the welfare of the young people. Some of the schools in his diocese were not only taught and conducted by the parish clergyman, but the wives and daughters of the clergy also joined in the work. If, with the clergyman at the head, the parishioners took care to assist him with the necessary aid, the result must be such as every person interested in the education of the poorer classes of this country would wish to see realised. He

hoped none of the clergy would be disheartened by his observations; but he felt convinced, that the great desideratum for their success, was the possession of well trained teachers.

Mr. E. W. Faithfull (Treasurer) pointed out, that amongst other difficulties attending the half-time system and Night Schools, were the conditions of the Poor Law. As long as a labourer was precluded from living in what part of the country he wished, or the neighbourhood of the farm on which he was engaged, success was impossible, in regard to his school instruction. Where a long distance had to be traversed to and fro, daily, from his home to his work, it interfered with instruction both under the half-time system or at the Night-School. Last year the Society had made grants to Evening Schools only to the amount of £6; whereas, this year, the amount was £19 10s.,—a fact which proved that progress had been made in this direction.

Some further discussion followed, after which

The Chairman called the attention of the meeting to the next subject on the paper:—

4.—By what combination of the Friendly Society, Provident Society, and Savings' Bank, can we include both sexes, and all ages, in such a well-matured system of Provident Exertion, as will raise the moral and social condition of the classes we Educate?

The Secretary read a paper on this subject, which had been forwarded to him by T. H. S. Sotheron Estcourt, Esq. one of the members for North Wilts, in which were embodied the leading principles upon which the Wilts Friendly Society was founded.*

The Hon. and Rev. S. Best said, that having been referred to in this paper, he felt bound to offer a few remarks

* See Appendix No. 2.

upon the subject. In the first place, he would express his satisfaction at having a subject of some difficulty, and very little understood, introduced to them in a paper, so clearly and lucidly drawn up, as that which had been read to them; and which, he trusted, would be read, and well thought over, by the many who took an interest in this important subject. There were three points, connected with the proposition they were called upon to consider, to which he would wish to draw their attention. 1st.—To fulfil its conditions, both sexes and all classes must be included; not here and there one healthy life picked out of the many, but males and females, children, the healthy, and the unhealthy; or it could not be looked to as the means, according to the terms of the proposition, of raising the moral and social condition of the classes we Educate. 2ndly.—It could not be done by any Friendly Society alone, on the ordinary insurance principle, because they will admit only picked lives, and reject females and children. 3rdly.—It could be done only inadequately by the Savings' Bank, because there is no principle of mutual support in it; and because, by an unwise jealousy, it is crippled in its operations, and reduced in its rate of interest below that which can be got in the Public Securities, or in safe Investments, throughout the country. With these difficulties before him, he had combined, he hoped, in the Deposit principle (to which reference had been made) the advantages of both kinds of Investment,—the Friendly Society and the Savings' Bank. It was not now a new scheme, but had existed at Abbott's Ann 26 years. It had realised and saved £1700, over and above all that had passed through the Society, and been paid out; amounting, probably, to at least three times that sum: and, amidst a population of 580, it had more than 450 members. Kindred Societies existed, at Andover, with more than 300 members; at Hursley, as mentioned in Mr. Estcourt's paper; at Long-parish; and in other places. He considered its peculiar

value was, that it could include all classes, descending to the lowest; and, as it were, from the cradle, collecting the crumbs that would be otherwise wasted. Mr. Best spoke of the Provident Society, as a combination of principles, fulfilling the conditions proposed. He highly valued the County Friendly Societies; and hoped never to see anything interfere with their prosperity. The Provident Society would work hand-in-hand with them; and, even as an auxiliary, a special rule, providing that, at the time of the Member's enrolment, (as full admission to all the privileges of Membership was called) at 14 years of age, it should be open to him to choose whichever system he preferred; and to transfer his money, if he so wished, to the Society worked on the principle of Insurance. Mr. Best offered to place in the hands of any one who wished to have them, the Rules of the Society, drawn up in blank, to be applied to any locality; and mentioned that the books, for keeping the accounts, could be had from the National Society.

Mr. Wyndham Portal said he had, at all times, taken great interest in Benefit Clubs, and other like Institutions, for the benefit of the labouring classes generally; and he could confirm all that had been advanced by Mr. Best. They were bound to give their best consideration to the advice of those from whom they asked it; and they ought to feel obliged for the carefully drawn up paper of Mr. Estcourt, on the Mutual Deposit System. The social and physical condition of the people required their earnest attention. By taking an active part in endeavouring to ameliorate the poor man's social condition, they gained his confidence. After referring to the Hants County Friendly Society,—in which he had ever taken the deepest interest,—as sound, both in principle and practice, he briefly referred to the Odd Fellows,—who were truly a gigantic Society,—numbering nearly a quarter of a million of people, and extending, not only all over England, but into her colonies. It

was really painful to read the report of Mr. Nielson, and others, on this subject, when he stated the number of lodges that had failed. In like proportion, were also the failures of the Foresters, Rechabites, and other such orders. He was ready to admit that these Societies had done much good; but they had failed from the defects in their constitution, and from the erroneous principles on which they were founded. He believed that the Society of which Mr. Best was the founder was based on principles which were impossible to fail. If a contributor wished to take out money, he had a regular debtor and creditor account, like a banker's, at his Society. The progress so quickly made in the Societies established at Abbott's Ann, and Andover, showed the goodness of the system. They had all the advantages of a Savings' Bank, without its inconveniences. Savings' Banks had not altogether recommended themselves to the public: this was an ascertained fact; for there appeared to be no increase of depositors of late years, though the means of the people had increased. The facilities offered by these Banks were not sufficient, and the fixed hours for the transaction of business were not at all convenient: they should be fixed at a time when the labouring people were most at leisure. In conclusion, he begged to suggest, that a short Abstract of the Mutual Deposit System should be printed, and circulated throughout the district, for general information.

Mr. Best suggested that this practically would be done by printing Mr. Estcourt's valuable paper in the Appendix, and the remarks which it had elicited in the debate.

The Chairman, at this point in the proceedings, said he was sorry to leave the meeting before the whole of the subjects for discussion had been got through, but he had an appointment in London which he was bound to fulfil that evening. The Chairman then vacated his seat, and, on the motion of Canon Jacob, a vote of thanks was accorded to the very Rev. gentleman, for his kind attendance.

Mr. Portal said he had just received a communication from the Secretaries of the Mechanics' Institute, to the effect that all the delegates to the Society would have seats reserved for them at the Earl of Carnarvon's Lecture, in the evening. Mr. Portal then moved that Mr. Best do take the chair, during the continuance of the Conference.

Mr. Best then took the chair, and read, from the paper, the next subject for discussion :—

5.—In what way, and by what means, may Buildings be permanently secured for the use of Institutes?

To introduce this subject, a paper was read, forwarded by Mr. Thompson, of Andover, who was himself prevented from attending the Meeting.*

Mr. Best asked to be permitted to annex to it a scheme for carrying out his friend, Mr. Thompson's, suggestions, not with the view of saddling it with his (Mr. Best's) proposals, or of rendering Mr. Thompson responsible for his speculations, but with the view of proposing the whole question for consideration and discussion; which he hoped it might receive at the hands of those who read the Report.

Mr. Portal said he would propose that the Society be empowered to print Mr. Thompson's sketch. Many different towns had felt the difficulties alluded to, as they did in Basingstoke: they found a difficulty in practically carrying out their plans, because they were hampered for the want of a large building, with rooms for classes, museum, &c. He should be glad if Mr. Thompson's and Mr. Best's plan was thought over, and it led to a happy result, and he hoped to see the sketch attached to the Report.

* See Appendix No. 3.

The Meeting then passed on to the consideration of the next question :—

6.—*Can any system of Itinerating Masters be suggested, which would adequately supply the wants of Evening Schools and Classes, and offer a fair prospect of remuneration to the Teacher.*

The Rev. F. V. Thornton said that Itinerating Masters would prove useful where Night Schools were now impossible. The teaching of all special subjects, such as drawing, might be undertaken by a Master, who might take in a large district, and go from one place to another. The principal thing for the Managers of Schools to consider, was, could they afford to pay such Masters. He thought it would not be difficult for Teachers to take circuits, and go from one place to another.

The Secretary said great assistance might be afforded to the Society by the Local Secretaries pointing out where such Unions or Circuits could be made, what Schools, in their districts, required such aid; and where parishes lay conveniently together; and so on.

Mr. G. Slater said the question had been for a long time before the Society,—how they could gain a hold in the small places. Many had already received the benefit of Itinerating Masters, especially in drawing.

The Rev. M. Harrison said it was his own intention to apply to the neighbouring parishes, and endeavour to unite. He apprehended no difficulty in employing a Master to attend three, four, or five places in a week: but they must not attempt too much at first.

Mr. Portal observed that an Itinerating master had hitherto been found to answer very well in the Schools in the district composed between Basingstoke and Andover, for drawing. The great difficulty, generally experienced, was the want of duly competent Teachers.

The Chairman then read from the paper the last subject for consideration :—

7.—May not good Readers, in our Village Institutions, aid in promoting the cause of Adult Education?

Mr. Best thought that much good service to the cause might be rendered by reading articles in the newspapers on the great questions of the day. Extracts from the *Times*, and other publications, illustrated by reference to maps, did much to convey knowledge to their poorer neighbours. He had tried it himself, and could say, that those who listened, had evinced much interest in the stirring events recorded in the papers of the day. A knowledge of geography, and an idea of the immense resources of the country were, in this way, easily and pleasantly communicated.

The Rev. Mr. Ridley said, in his own Evening School he had always made it a part of the system to read aloud the last quarter of an hour; and it might be from that practice that he had not found the sleepy young gentleman referred to during the day. Last year, amongst other things read, was a book, written by Miss Yonge, entitled *Ben Sylvester's Word*, and it was very popular. If the Evening Schools were found to flag, it would be worth while to try what such an introduction would do; especially at the end of the instruction. He would suggest, that, instead of the word Examination, or Inspection, applied to the Village Schools, the word "visiting" should be substituted; as the former words created a feeling misunderstood by the scholars.

Mr. Best concurred in the policy of the alteration.

R. Rickman, Esq., of Empshott, said that he had found this a very valuable means of interesting them. He had added to it a very simple expedient, namely, that of getting them to vote on each subject which appeared to awaken and sustain their interest.

A question then arose as to the best place for holding the Society of Arts' Examinations; but it was ultimately resolved to refer it to the Committee. The Conference then broke up.

There was afterwards a dinner, under the presidency of the Mayor of Basingstoke, which a large portion of the Members and Delegates attended; and in the evening, a very eloquent and brilliant address was delivered by the Earl of Carnarvon, in the Town Hall, on "The Later History of the County;" published, at the request of the Society, by Messrs. Routledge, Farringdon Street: price 6d. This was the Opening Address of the Session of the Basingstoke Mechanics' Institute.

APPENDIX—No. I.

PAGE 24.

(Published with the kind consent of the Authors).

TO THE REV. THOMAS BACON,

KINGSWORTHY RECTORY.

SIR,

Not long ago I experienced the great gratification of listening to a Lecture from you on "THE DEGREES OF INTELLIGENCE FROM INSTINCT TO REASON," and thus I am induced, though a mere stranger, to lay before you the enclosed "ADDRESS TO SCHOOLMASTERS," in the hope that you may be able to recommend some book on the Domestic Animals—especially the Horse, the Dog, the Cat, and the Donkey,—which enlarges upon the object of that appeal, and is suitable for a Schoolmaster's use, in School, or as a reading-book for lads and great girls.

Books on mere Natural History, treating of the forms, structures, and habits of animals, and showing how the quickest and largest profits may be derived from them by their owners, are not scarce: but the intelligence of the animal creation, their modes of thought, their feelings and affections, their pleasures and sufferings, their social character as the intended friends and servants of man, man's conduct towards them, and his responsibility to a Higher Power for such conduct; these, and other like points of the subject, do not appear to be regarded, or, at least, are only very briefly and slightly treated of, in any volume that we have been able to obtain.

Trusting that you will pardon the liberty taken by a stranger, in addressing this letter to you,

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

MARIA E. MICHELL.

Norton Cottage, Yarmouth,
Isle of Wight.

TO SCHOOLMASTERS.

WHILE engaged in the instruction and moral government of youth, you have, without doubt, been often struck with the cruelty and love of teasing displayed by children and young people towards those animals which are not able, or are too docile, and too good natured, to defend themselves. It is surmised that ignorance and want of thought are very frequently the cause of this cruelty.

The present Address is therefore made to you in the belief that you are possessed of a most powerful influence in directing the minds of the rising generation, and with the entreaty that you will use it in the defence of that part of God's creation which cannot appeal for itself.

Believing, too, that, in so doing, you will be bringing forth and cherishing some of the best feelings of the human heart, this appeal is made to you by those who entertain a deep anxiety in the cause, and who would ask you to promote amongst the children under your care a better knowledge of the habits, instincts, and wants of animals in general; and especially to kindle in their minds a livelier interest and warmer love for the Horse, the Dog, the Cat, and the Donkey.

It is thought that this might be accomplished by your frequently addressing to your pupils some such lesson on the subject as should enlist their feelings, and, at the same time, dispel that ignorance which often, very unintentionally, leads to the infliction of great suffering on defenceless creatures. Each individual Master would, of course, exercise his own judgment and feeling in the preparation of a lesson of this description: but it may, perhaps, not be deemed impertinent, if it be suggested that—

THE HISTORY OF THE PARTICULAR ANIMAL:

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SAME:

ITS NATURAL HABITS AND INSTINCTS:

THE FOOD AND SHELTER MOST PROPER FOR IT:

THE WORK THAT NATURE HAS ADAPTED IT TO PERFORM
IN THE SERVICE OF MAN,—AND THAT WHICH IT IS
NOT CAPABLE OF PERFORMING WITHOUT SUFFERING —

Illustrated with anecdotes of the fidelity and sagacity of each description of animal, and of its capability of being made to understand and to respond to the wishes of a kind Master—might form the basis of a lesson which would interest and instruct the mind of youth.

If you feel disposed to aid this work of benevolence and mercy by acting on the suggestion here offered, and would wish to make any communication on the subject, letters may be addressed to—

MISS E. BEARD,

Norton Cottage,

Yarmouth,

Isle of Wight.

It is interesting to learn, by a later communication from the Author of the foregoing letter, that "4,000 of these Circulars were despatched, by post, to Schoolmasters; as the Address of British, National, or other Schools could be found in Educational Reports. A hundred Masters were so obliging as to reply; expressing their readiness to co-operate in any way that might forward the cause thus advocated, or acknowledging its importance, or enquiring for books which might be useful in giving lessons on this subject. Some of these were men of experience in Education, while others appeared to have just commenced their career. The experienced we again addressed,—to ask their counsel and their help,—in which we were not disappointed. But no one has yet been able to refer us to a book which carries out the object of the Circular; nor has the offer of Prizes, in more than one Schoolmaster's Association, been successful in eliciting any work of this kind."

N.B.—WITH A VIEW TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THIS DESIRED OBJECT, THE SECRETARY FOR LECTURES NOW OFFERS FOR COMPETITION, AMONG ALL MEMBERS OF INSTITUTIONS IN UNION WITH THE HANTS AND WILTS ADULT EDUCATION SOCIETY, A PRIZE OF £5 WORTH OF BOOKS, TO BE AWARDED TO THE AUTHOR OF THE FULLEST AND BEST TREATISE ON THIS SUBJECT; PROVIDED THAT THE MERITS OF THE PERFORMANCE BE SATISFACTORY TO THE ADJUDICATORS. THE COPYRIGHT OF THE WORK SHALL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE AUTHOR, PROVIDED THAT IT SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN A CHEAP AND USEFUL FORM, WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE AWARD: BUT, IN DEFAULT OF SUCH PUBLICATION BY THE AUTHOR, THE COPYRIGHT SHALL BECOME VESTED IN THE ADJUDICATORS, TO BE DEALT WITH AS THEY MAY THINK FIT. THE SECRETARIES AND ONE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THIS SOCIETY WILL BE REQUESTED TO ACT AS THE

ADJUDICATORS.—THE PAPERS MUST BE SENT ANONYMOUSLY TO THE SECRETARY FOR LECTURES—THE REV. THOMAS BACON, KINGSWORTHY RECTORY, WINCHESTER, ON, OR BEFORE, THE 1ST OF MAY NEXT,—THE AUTHORSHIP BEING INDICATED BY A MOTTO, OR DEVICE, ATTACHED TO THE TREATISE, AND A CORRESPONDING MOTTO, OR DEVICE, WITH THE REAL SIGNATURE, UNDER A SEALED ENVELOPE, WHICH WILL NOT BE OPENED UNTIL AFTER THE AWARD IS MADE.

APPENDIX—No. II.

**ON FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, &c., BY F. H. S. ESTCOURT, ESQ. M.P.
READ AT THE MEETING BY THE SECRETARY.—[SEE PAGE 43.]**

To make a provision against sickness is the first want of a labouring man. The cheapest way of doing this is on the principle of Mutual Assurance—in other words, a Club. Experience, however, shews that parish clubs, on a sound plan, and such as good men would wish to help in establishing, are liable to certain deficiencies and objections, which prevent them from working effectually the good intended, and discourage many from supporting them. I put down some of these shortly, and I will then point out what seems to me the best way of remedying or preventing them:—

1st. In a club limited to a parish, the numbers are generally too small to secure a real average of results; and so, without any fault in the rules or tables, they sometimes become insolvent.

2nd. The members being mostly of the same class and similar occupation, the management is apt to become languid, and to fall into the hands of the stewards, without check.

3rd. If a club is formed on the plea of a graduated scale of contributions, there ought to be a valuation every five years, at most, of assets and liabilities: this is too complicated to be generally acted on.

4th. The capital being the property of the whole club, and no member having a farthing of his own money separately the property of himself, membership is apt to be held loosely; a considerable proportion of members will always be migratory and fluctuating, to the detriment of the club and of themselves.

5th. It is hard to persuade labouring men, ignorant of the science of numbers, that their capital, if it exceed a pound a head, is not more than they need have in store, and so a clamour for a division arises. Again, it is felt to be a hardship that a man should pay his contributions for years, yet receive nothing back, if he happens to enjoy good health: from this, of late years, a practice has grown of dividing the whole capital periodically, and in doing so, they are apt to exclude from their club all members likely to be burdensome; thus the true object of the club is defeated, and the old men ill treated.

6th. It is but lost time to try to persuade labouring men to lay by money as an assurance for an allowance in old age, *eo nomine*: and yet it is hazardous to engage to give sick pay after the age of 65.

7th. The management of a club ought to be in the hands of its members; but with graduated tables and rules it is difficult to find a steward competent to keep the yearly accounts, and this is one main reason why in ordinary clubs they proceed on the simple plan that all pay and receive alike.

8th. It is felt, by many, to be a serious objection that after all their efforts there is no certainty in the solvency or permanency of a club. The best solution of these difficulties, and the most safe method upon which a club can be formed, as far as I am able to judge, is by combining the principle of Mutual Assurance with that of a Savings' Bank.

I saw this for the first time in operation at Abbott's Ann, and, borrowing the idea from Mr. Best, with some modifications, I have engrafted it on the Wiltshire Society. This method is, shortly, that each member should pay his contributions to his own separate account, as in a savings' bank, and that the deposit of each member should be liable, at the close of every year, for his share of the common expenditure, including allowances in sickness, sums on death, salaries of surgeon and steward, and incidental outlay. The particular rules by which this method is carried into operation will vary. In Mr. Best's club a portion of the sick pay received by a member is directly drawn from his own deposit. In the Wiltshire Society the whole amount of sick pay is drawn from the common fund, but the member's deposit or rest is liable to a corresponding deduction of one-sixth, one-fourth, one-third, or one-half, which is carried to a fund towards providing a superannuation in old age.

Referring, then, for particulars to the rules, whether those of Abbott's Ann, or of Hursley, or of the Wiltshire Society, I wish to point out briefly how this deposit plan obviates or remedies some of the objections stated above :—

1st. In the deposit plan the average is of less consequence, first, because the pressure will always be moderate, since it will touch the club, not collectively, but individually; and secondly, because the disposition to draw continuously on the club for sick pay will be checked by the deductions to which the members own deposit or rest will be subject.

2nd. The interest in admitting sound and creditable candidates into the Society will be so much more direct and personal, that the management is likely to be more business-like, and the check on the steward more exercised.

3rd. In this plan you get rid of all estimates or valuations; at the close of every year a complete balance-sheet is struck.

4th. The members will be less likely to abandon their club if they possess a nest egg in its funds, which they will forfeit if they quit without a good reason for doing so.

5th. The clamour for a division will be silenced; it will practically be made each year.

6th. In the Wiltshire Society a fund for superannuation will grow up, by means of deductions, imperceptibly.

7th. The keeping of the accounts will be mere ledger work—scarcely any calculation.

8th. The club, on a deposit plan, cannot help being solvent, and is less likely to be broken up.

According to my understanding of the moral and social benefits which men have in view in supporting clubs, these are more developed in the deposit plan than in ordinary assurance. The spirit of self-denial will be more likely to be exercised by a man in sparing his own fund than in sparing that of a club. Providence is more likely to urge men to lay by, if what they can save is kept as their own. Independence in an ordinary club ends for the most part at the age of 65, when sick pay ceases; but, in the new plan, the member who has been toiling for independence the best part of his days, will find that he possesses, at the age of 65, a sort of fortune in the accumulated balances of former years, besides what he can get from the superannuation fund. Lastly, good neighbourly feeling is often interrupted by the jealousy exercised towards members who receive largely an allowance in sickness. There will be less jealousy when there exists a self-imposed check on every member, warning him to be sparing of the common fund, because, at the same time, he will diminish his own.

APPENDIX—No. III.

REMARKS ON THE CAUSES OF FAILURE IN LOCAL SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS, AND SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR OBVIATING THE SAME, BY H. THOMPSON, ESQ.; READ AT THE MEETING BY THE SECRETARY.—[SEE PAGE 47.]

It is frequently observed that in provincial towns various Institutions spring up, flourish for a time, but eventually fade away. Useful in their objects and operations, they appear to have no sufficient power to stand alone or to bear the burden of the necessary expenses entailed upon them, even when administered with economy.

This failing of power appears to arise in a great measure from the heavy expense which each individual Society entails on itself by having a separate establishment and place of business.

In most of our small towns will be found the following Societies, (or similar ones); against each is placed an imaginary rent, for example's sake, but the sums stated are below that which in most cases would be the actual cost :—

A Savings' Bank, costing in rent, say	£20 per annum.
A first-class Reading Room	10 "
Second one, attached to Institute	10 "
Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge ..	5 "
,, ,, Propagation of the Gospel	5 "
Bible Society	5 "
Say 3 Friendly Benefit and Charitable Societies	5 "
Total.....	£60

Some of these flourish, others hold on a lingering, but almost useless existence, and the remainder fade away. Dispersed, their utility is circumscribed; but, it may be suggested, If they gathered collectively under one roof might not their operations be far more vigorous ?

If this assumption be correct, the next point for consideration is, How is this accommodation to be obtained? But before entering on this, it must be premised, that if the Societies are to be *permanently maintained*, the building for their occupation must also be *permanently co-existent*.

Already it has been shown that they pay collectively a rent of £60 per annum, which, at 5 per cent., represents a capital of £1,200.

Now, if £1,000 (a sum quite adequate to provide the necessary accommodation) were raised in £100 shares of £10 each, paying the Shareholders an annual Dividend of 3 per cent. (and it is presumed that those embarking in such a scheme would be satisfied with a moderate interest, looking through it to the general welfare, and not altogether as a money speculation though a safe investment) there would then still be left a sum of £30 per annum for an annual redemption of three shares until the whole was paid off, which would occur in about a period of 33 years, when the building would eventually be left *a free* and lasting monument of present intentions.

1st October, 1857.

H. T.

NOTE BY THE HON. AND REV. S. BEST ON THE FOREGOING PAPER, READ AT THE MEETING.

Approving entirely the principle on which the foregoing valuable Note is drawn up, the details do not appear to me to be as favourably stated as they might be, perhaps from a desire not to prove too good a case, and thereby throw any doubt upon the practicability of the proposal.

I would venture to suggest, for consideration, Rules for carrying out these proposals :—

1.—Each share shall confer one vote, but no one shall have more than five votes.

2.—The Shareholders shall annually elect a committee of five. Three shall be a quorum. In this committee the management of the Society shall vest.

3.—The Shareholders shall elect three Trustees, in whose names the property shall be held.

4.—After payment of 3 per cent. on the capital invested, all surplus income shall go towards the re-payment of the shares by lot.

5.—One vote for each share that is extinguished by the foregoing means shall vest in the Trustees, and one vote in the oldest subscriber to the Society.

6.—When the shares are extinguished by repayment the property shall vest in the Trustees for the use of the Societies who have joined or may hereafter be allowed to join, under such regulations as the committee shall from time to time make.

7.—The Trustees shall hold office during life, unless specially removed by a vote of the Shareholders or Subscribers.

HANTS AND WILTS ADULT EDUCATION SOCIETY.
 (CIRCULAR A.)

CONDITIONS OF

Gratuities to Evening School Teachers.

- 1.—The Gratuity offered by the Society must be doubled from local sources, independent of the class fees.
- 2.—No pupil under the age of 15 years shall be counted, with a view to the Gratuity, unless employed in industrial occupations during the day.
- 3.—The amount of the Gratuity will depend on the number of scholars, who have attended not less than 80 hours, and on the number of hours the School has been open.
- 4.—Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, shall be deemed essential subjects of Instruction. The knowledge of Scripture, Geography, English History, and of any Branch of Science will be favourably considered and reported on.
- 5.—The Committee reserves the power of withholding the Gratuity on the ground of insufficient merit, or of marking its sense of higher efficiency by increasing it.
- 6.—A Gratuity, increasing according to the value of the Certificate, will be given to the Master of the Adult Evening School in Union whose scholar is successful in any of the Society's Examinations.
- 7.—Applications must be made for the Gratuity to the Society's Local Secretary before the 14th day of March.

SAMUEL BEST,
 WYNDHAM S. PORTAL, } Secretaries.
 THOMAS BACON,

HANTS AND WILTS ADULT EDUCATION SOCIETY
 (CIRCULAR B.)

PROPOSALS FOR
 Union of Libraries and Interchange of Books.

- 1.—The Libraries of a District may be grouped together by the Local Secretary, and with the consent of the Librarians formed into a Union.
- 2.—The Catalogues of the Libraries in Union shall be interchanged.
- 3.—A Subscriber to any of the Libraries in Union shall be entitled to the use of the Books in any other such Library, (except such as are not allowed to be taken out of the Room), on sending in the Name of the Book he requires to the Librarian of his own Library, on or before the — day of each month. No one shall be entitled to a further supply who has not returned the Books he has borrowed.
- 4.—Each Librarian shall collect and return, at the end of the month, the Books received the preceding month, and forward a fresh list of those applied for. The carriage shall be paid for out of the funds of the Library receiving the Books.
- 5.—No Book shall be sent out that has not been six months in the Library.
- 6.—No Librarian shall be entitled to apply, on behalf of the subscribers to his Library, for more than one volume for every ten volumes in the Library he represents. Volumes not returned shall be counted as against the Library applying; and a forfeit of 1d. per week shall be paid by the person detaining a volume over two months, through his Librarian, to the Library to which the Book belongs.

SAMUEL BEST,
 WYNDHAM S. PORTAL, } Secretaries.
 THOMAS BACON,

HANTS AND WILTS ADULT EDUCATION SOCIETY.
 (CIRCULAR C.)

Examinations, Certificates, and Prizes.

MEMBERS OF ALL SCHOOLS OR INSTITUTES IN UNION WITH THE SOCIETY
 ARE ENTITLED TO PRESENT THEMSELVES FOR EXAMINATION UNDER
 THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:—

1.—Candidates must give notice of their intentions to the Local Secretaries, or to the Secretaries of the Society, one month at least before the Examination takes place; specifying their age, School, or Institute, and the Class of Examination they propose to undergo.

2.—Candidates must send in with the notice, a testimonial, 1st of Good Conduct, and 2ndly of their fitness to undergo the Examination they select, signed by the President and Secretary, or two Managers of their Institute or Evening School.

3.—The Candidate must be above 15 years of age.

4.—The Examinations in Class 1 are equally open to males and females. Those in Class 2 are not open to Pupil Teachers, Masters or Mistresses.

5.—Certificates will be given to all who pass the Examination satisfactorily; to which Prizes of Books, varying in value according to the value of the Examination, will be added, where the Examination has been of distinguished excellence.

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| 6.—Class I. | a.—An Examination in any 3 Lectures that have been delivered in the Members' Institution within the last year.
b.—An Examination in any subject taught in a Class of which the Candidate has been a Member.
c.—In any 3 vols. on History, Science, or Geography, in the Library of his Institution.
d.—In 3 subjects chosen by the Society, announced at each Anniversary Meeting for 1858:—
1. The History of England from 1377 to 1509.
2. The Hydraulic Ram and Press.
3. The Mountain System and River Drainage of Europe.
e.—In any 3 Subjects or Books chosen by the Member and approved by the Society.
a.—The Examination of a Candidate Pupil Teacher.
b.—The Pupil Teacher's 1st year's Examination.
c._____ 2nd _____
d._____ 3rd _____
e._____ 4th _____
f._____ 5th _____
g.—Queen's Scholar's Examination.
h.—Master's or Mistress's Examination. |
|-------------|--|

1st
week
in
May.

Class II.

Class III.—The Society of Arts Examination—In the Whitsun Week.
By two Certificates of Excellence the Honorary Title of S.A.A., i.e.
Society of Arts Associate may be earned.

Class IV. { An Examination by the University Dele-
 gates.
 a.—For Members under 15 years of age. } In
 b.—For Members under 18 years of age. September.

By these Examinations the Honorary Title of A.A., Oxon, or Cantab. i.e.
Associate of Arts of the University of Oxford or Cambridge may be earned.

7.—In every case the special conditions of the class must be complied with. These may be learned from the Secretaries.

8.—For Classes 3 and 4 (unless holding a Certificate of the Society) a preparatory Examination must be passed.

9.—In Classes 1 and 2 the Examination will be conducted in writing in the Members' Institution, under the regulations of the Society.

SAMUEL BEST,
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 THOMAS BACON,
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